



ALASKA *People*

Inside

Joint Pipeline Makes News	2
Profile: Lynn Lewis	3
Scenes from the Field	4-5
Cool News	6
Management by Numbers	7
Health	7
Employees Answers	8

July/August 1999



Dan Guillickson

Susan Will Named Assoc. Field Mgr.

by Sharon Wilson

Susan Will traveled a circuitous route before she became the associate field manager for the Northern Field Office in July. Some jobs are best achieved through evolution.

Born and raised in Bismarck, North Dakota, Will went to school in New York state, North Dakota and Fairbanks, Alaska. She finished her undergraduate degree in anthropology between stints of pipeline archeology, commercial fishing, sailboat-building, working as a laborer on the Trans Alaska Pipeline, tending bar, clerking in local bookstores and dog mushing. In 1978 she began seasonal work for the BLM in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) and

continued on page 6

It's Official – State Director Takes Oath of Office



Ed Boy

Alaska's newest State Director, Fran Cherry, was sworn in at the Anchorage Museum by acting national director Tom Fry. (l-r) Joining Cherry at the podium were Marilyn Heiman, spec. assistant to the Secretary; and Cherry's wife, Patricia.

Fran Cherry was sworn in as BLM's newest state director by acting national director Tom Fry in Anchorage on August 4. "We realized it would be hard to replace Tom Allen," said Fry. "Fran was on the top of my list. He's worked all over BLM. He's thoughtful and does his job in a methodical way."

Cherry greeted employees assembled at the Anchorage Museum by saying, "Wow! This is great!" He said the diversity of issues is what makes his job so

appealing. "There are many challenges in Alaska— the pipeline, subsistence, the Fortymile River, and the different laws and policies that apply only to Alaska," said Cherry.

His orientation to Alaska has taken him to the field. He talked about his recent trip to Eagle to celebrate its 100th anniversary and his trip to the North Slope with Fry. Cherry said, "We have great people working in this state. I'm seeing a high level of work done by our employees."

Employee Profile

When you talk to Lynn Lewis, get ready for a conversation punctuated with laughter. Lewis, who has worked for BLM since 1988, is that happy go lucky docket assistant at the Alaska State Office. "I make sure files are properly closed and prepare them for transfer to the Federal Records," says Lewis.

Although many people are defined by their jobs, Lewis is quite the contrary. Adventure and travel are her pursuits.

Born in Milwaukee, she and her older brother spent their early years on a farm. She attended a country school and had a pet pig.

Her higher education consisted of two years at Macalester College, and a year of evening classes at the University of Minnesota before she graduated from the Minnesota School of Business as a legal secretary.

Her first job with an insurance company lasted a few months before she was off to England. "I had many British friends and they needed an American secretary," says Lewis. Twenty-seven months later she came back to the U.S. by cargo boat.

Working for the City of Minneapolis Attorney's office was next. She lasted 15 months before moving to Alaska, lock, stock and barrel. "I didn't know anyone," says Lewis. She did some temporary secretarial work before she began working as a secretary and technician at Prudhoe Bay for 15 years with ARCO. This was during the Alaska oil pipeline "hey days" and Lewis was one of the first four women to work on the North Slope. She was also the last of the women to leave, taking ARCO's retirement package in 1985. During this time she satisfied her wanderlust by traveling to places like Peru, Egypt, Hong Kong, Singapore, Greece, Bangkok and South Africa.

She still does her share of traveling, with South Africa as her favorite destination because of its beauty and elephants. She says, "When I see an elephant walk free, I know everything is okay."



Lynn Lewis Docket Assistant

How long have you lived in Alaska?

Thirty years as of October 1.

What do you enjoy most about your job? I get to see results of what I do and the work is varied.

What is the last book you've read (or are currently reading)? A Safe Place to Die by Janice Law (a mystery).

What is your idea of a good time? Do whatever I want to do whenever I want to do it, when I'm in the mood.

What was your favorite job? Working as a secretary for the city attorney's office in Minneapolis. I took dictation for complaints, prepared papers for judges, and typed the bills for the legislature. The work was

always different. I typed the deposition when George Wallace was shot.

If you had one year to live, what would you do? Spend all my money and travel.

Name one thing which people would be surprised to know about you? I would love to study elephants in Africa.

What does your "ultimate meal" consist of? Lobster, Indian biryani, Caesar salad and white wine.

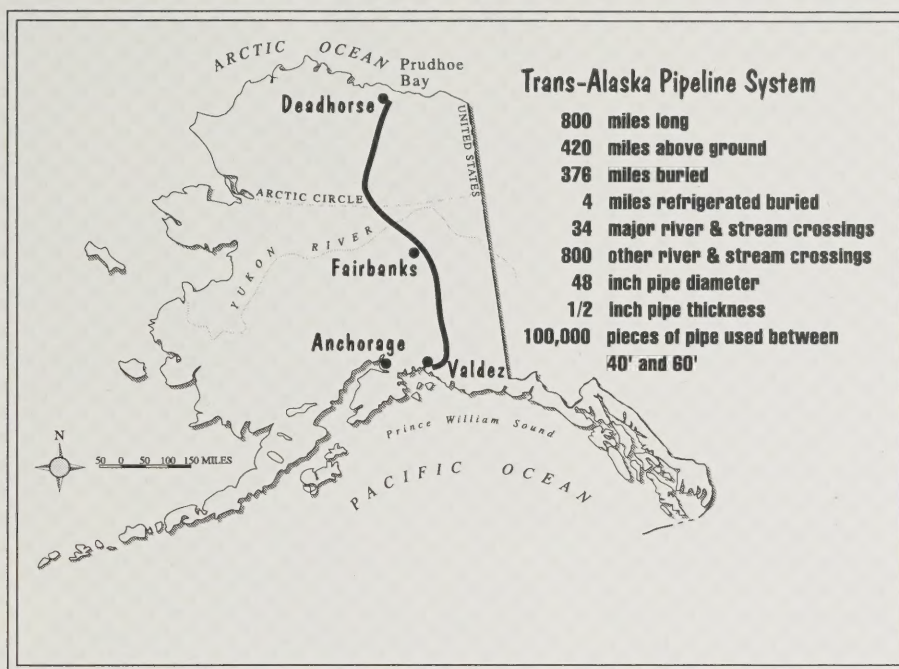
What is your favorite place? South Africa; I've been there four times.

What is the most important thing you've learned since working for the BLM? I don't speak governmentese.

Joint Pipeline Office Makes the News

Lately issues handled by the Joint Pipeline Office have attracted the attention of the local and national media attention. The state director announced in early August that BLM will complete an environmental impact statement instead of an environmental assessment for the renewal of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) right-of-way. The BLM is responsible for renewing the right-of-way on federal lands which expires January 2004. "Given the significance of TAPS, . . . the renewal is of sufficient public interest and complexity to require an environmental impact statement," says Cherry.

Also discussed with the media was a matrix prepared by JPO and released by the Department of Interior. It addresses allegations made by some Alyeska pipeline employees about pipeline safety and employee harassment issues.



JPO Will Oversee RGV 60 Project

by Lois Simenson

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company will shut down the pipeline Sept. 11-12 to replace RGV 60.

The RGV 60 project involves a 48-inch diameter remote gate valve situated along the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) one-half mile north of the Yukon River. The valve is controlled by operators 450 miles away in Valdez. RGV 60 does not completely seal when it is closed. Due to the proximity of the pipeline to the Yukon River, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, the TAPS operator, will replace RGV 60 with a refurbished gate valve on September 11-12. The pipeline

system will be shut down for up to 29 hours to replace the valve.

Valve Maintenance

All valves must be maintained to minimize potential spills, provide overpressure protection, and isolate sections of the pipeline when necessary. Alyeska developed the mainline valve maintenance program to test and evaluate valves to assure their proper function and condition. Valve testing is an important safety measure to prevent and minimize potential oil spills. Valves are carefully inspected to ensure the internal sealing of oil; valves can lose their seal with time. Alyeska Pipeline repairs or replaces valves

depending on test results.

Valve Replacement

First the pipe is cut on either side of the RGV with a 48" diameter hole saw. Then the pipeline system is shut down and stopple plugs are placed in the pipe which isolate the RGV from oil and vapors. The old valve is lifted out, the new valve is lowered in, and then the pipe is welded together. This is no easy feat, since an RGV weighs about 67,000 pounds. Careful planning is vital for successful replacement. The JPO staff will be on-site to monitor the valve replacement.

Simenson is a technical writer for the Joint Pipeline Office

What is a RGV?

A RGV is a remote gate valve, which controls oil flow in either direction of the pipeline. RGVs are used mostly for emergencies, rather than routine pipeline operation. The 62 RGVs along TAPS are remotely controlled by pipeline operators at the Valdez Marine

Terminal. The 800-mile Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) includes 177 valves that isolate sections of pipeline in the event of an oil leak. Valves control and block the flow of oil and are key elements in pipeline oil spill prevention and response.

1 Surveyor **Michael Harmening** locates a cadastral monument for (l-r) Drs. Kostyantyn Yartsev and Oleksandr Kilodyazhnyy. The Ukrainians visited earlier this year and will use their newfound survey knowledge to help restore private land ownership to its citizens.

2 Seasonal staff and volunteers working for the Glennallen Field Office this summer consist (back row - Brushkana campground host **Homer Rich, Jason Roberts, Garrett Miller, Mark Carlson, Brad Siefert**, Paxson campground host **Reba Brannen, Heath Emmons**. Second row - Brushkana campground host **Vicky Rich, Tom Tasher, Emily Tracy, Melra Potankar**, Sourdough campground host **Martha Hanns**, Front - **Shannon Frozee** and Paxson campground host **Dave Peterson**. Not in photo - **Jim and Nedra Starkey**. (photo - Marcia Butorac)

3 NFO seasonal outdoor rec. planner **Mike Crbone** is repairs the catchment system at the North Fork Cabin in the Pinnell National Mountain Trail. (photo - Erik Bird)



SCENES from the Field



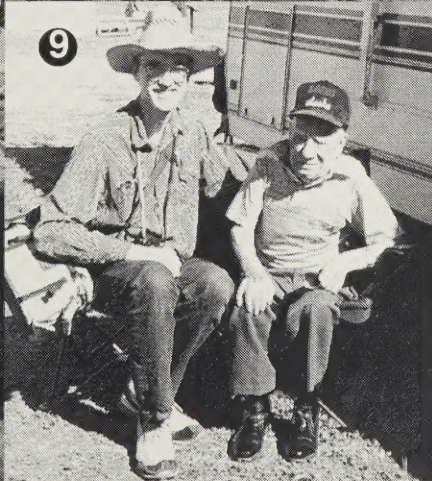
4 Susan Flora, NFO environmental scientist, inspects the progress of the hazardous materials cleanup at the Sagwon Airstrip, about 65 miles south of Prudhoe Bay. (photo - Sharon Wilson)

5 AFO out. rec. planner **Nancy Stimson** (middle) and DOI intern **Del Beaver** discuss interpretive ideas with cultural heritage program director Bernadine Atchison at the Kenaitze Tribe interpretive site in the Kenai. (photo - Brenda Takeshorse)

6 **Bunnie Sterin**, Resources hydrologist, checks her supplies before flying to a field camp.



7 In early July, the North Star crew of the Alaska Fire Service spent three days building a 130-foot passing siding at Alaskaland in Fairbanks. The siding will accommodate Tanana Valley Railroad Engine #1, Alaska's oldest operating steam locomotive. (photo - Dan Gullickson)



8 GFO realty specialist **David Mushovic** and student volunteer **Emily Tracy** make notes while using the Global Positioning System (GPS) to locate district trails. Trails are "GPSed" by foot, raft, or canoe, but the GPS equipment is also mounted on all-terrain vehicles. (photo - Garrett Miller)

9 State archaeologist **Bob King** talks to 92-year old Donald McEdward during the Ft. Egbert Centennial celebration (July 30-Aug. 1) in Eagle. McEdward was born at Ft. Egbert in 1907 where his father served as the blacksmith. (photo - Sharon Wilson)

During the summer, employees working in the field must deal with logistics, weather and a short season.

(Will story continued from front page)

joined the Yukon Resource Area as an archeologist in 1979.

During her years in Interior Alaska, Will competed in sprint dog team racing, supported the Dog Musers Association, and helped establish and manage the popular Dog Musers Museum in Fairbanks.

Her many experiences are the key to her success. She has worked extensively in archeology, 3809 surface protection for mining, EIS public participation process and planning, and as a NFO team advisor. Meeting new challenges

head-on, Will accepted details to the Washington Office Minerals staff and supervisory positions in the NFO.

Will says an advantage of a multiple-use agency is that a person can get a broad base of experience working with different natural resource issues. "Also, the Northern Field Office's reorganization to self-directed teams and the use of training in facilitation and mediation puts our employees in the forefront," says Will.

She says she needs challenges to stay interested. "Dealing with

people who are at odds of how to manage and use the resources is what I like to do," she says. Will has facilitated many Fortymile Caribou Herd Management Team meetings, composed of an diverse array of federal and state employees, nonprofit groups and others.

"When people come together to resolve their differences —what more could a resource manager ask?" says Will.

Sharon Wilson is the lead supervisory public affairs officer for the Northern Field Office in Fairbanks.

Cool News



Carrie Hicks can lift remarkable weight. In February at the Womens National Powerlifting Championship held in Lincoln, Nebraska in February she lifted (in pounds): squat: 248; bench 148.8; deadlift: 292.1

Strong Woman Has the Power.

Carrie Hicks, cartographic technician with Cadastral Survey and member of the Alaska Iron Maidens powerlifting team, will be heading to South Africa in October to compete in the World Masters Powerlifting Meet. Hicks, a '98 and '99 masters national champion, has been powerlifting for four years at Golds Gym and is one of nine women representing the U.S. at this international meet. Garage sales conducted jointly by

Stephanie Clusiau, Marilyn Dillard and former BLMer **Mary Buckle** have raised \$3,400 towards her trip.

Glennallen Gets Field Manager.

On July 18, **Catherine Jensen** began her six month appointment as GFO's acting field manager. For the past several years, the GFO has operated as a self-directed team where Jensen served as a realty specialist.

UPDATE on Fitness Facility at the Anchorage Federal Building.

The fitness facility is still a go. The project is currently being designed. After Oct. 1 a committee will be formed to look at operations, costs, etc.

Editor Elected to National Position.

Ella Wright, a writer/editor in Support Services, was elected first vice president of the National Federation of Press Women in July. She will serve a two-year term.

BLM-Alaska Gets Millions - On August 20, ARCO, Alaska gave State Director **Fran Cherry** a check for \$55 million. The money is for new oil and gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve and represents the remainder of ARCO's bonus bid and the first year's rent. British Petroleum paid BLM almost \$22 million on August 25.



MANAGEMENT by Numbers

How would you fare under General Electric's rating system?

by Scott Guyer

When you think of General Electric you probably think of toasters, TVs and microwave ovens. But GE produces much more than appliances. GE has 14 divisions making aircraft engines, lighting, medical systems and plastics as well as owning the NBC television network.

Jack Welch, CEO of GE for nearly 20 years, has shaped the company into one of the most admired in the world. What is it like to lead one of the largest companies in America? How could you motivate GE's 85,000 managers to excel and be top performers? Welch answers these questions in a recent interview on how he motivates his employees (see *Anchorage Daily News* June 27, 1999 business section). You would think that the CEO of a large corporation would spend most of his time overseeing daily operations, but Welch spends 50 percent of his time on people issues. Employee stock options and raises are based on a one to five numerical rating system. Employees receiving ones on the performance review are considered top performers and make up 10 percent of the work force, two's 15 percent. Threes are the middle 50 percent and have a future to move up. Fours are the caution group and fives are the least effective bottom 10 percent. Fives don't last very long around the company, as GE doesn't encourage underperformance. Every employee is told

where they stand in the system so there is no confusion.

How does Jack Welch motivate the average employee? He tells them if they work hard they can be a 'one' or a 'two,' and be eligible for stock options. But recognition is also an important reward, "You have to reward in the soul and in the wallet!"

As CEO, Welch doesn't get involved in GE's distinct businesses. His job is not to know everything or make every big decision but to hire the best people to operate and run GE's 14 divisions. He spends his time not on the "how" but on where money and people should be used most efficiently. What lessons can be learned from Welch and GE? As a government employee is there a way to improve your motivation? Take a look at yourself and your work habits. How would you rate under GE's evaluation system? Would you be receiving stock options or would you be headed out the door? As a manager, do you meddle in every little issue that comes along, or do you rely and trust the people you supervise to solve problems? Do you consider motivating employees as one of your most important jobs? Certainly Jack Welch is one of the most insightful leaders in business today, and can teach us all how to be successful leaders and motivators.

Scott Guyer is a general biologist with the Division of Cadastral Survey.

Lose Your Belly and Live Longer!

Scientific research shows that a trim belly protects you against breast cancer, diabetes, heart disease and more. Fat inside the belly is more likely to release fatty acids into the liver than fat found elsewhere. This can account for excessive amounts of cholesterol and insulin in the blood, and altered hormone levels which contribute to the development of disease. Studies show waistlines of more than 32 inches for women and 37 inches for men put you at risk. Abdominal fat appears to be related to insulin resistance.

Steps to a Trim Belly

- Lose weight; eat a diversity of foods in moderation.
- Do aerobic exercise every day
- Tone your stomach by exercising your abdominal muscles.
- Build muscle; resistance training boosts the metabolism.
- Control your stress; studies show people who don't manage stress well have larger waists.

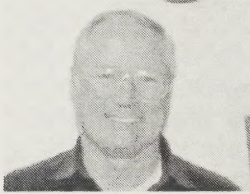
Source: Prevention magazine.

How do you feel about building security at your work place?



**Kathy Stubbs, Realty
Specialist
Anchorage Field Office**

For the most part I feel the Campbell Tract Facility is secure. There was one incident when I was working after hours, sitting at my desk, and was startled by a member of the public who walked into my office exploring. The individual was attending a meeting in the Campbell Tract Training Room. It was very awkward and it made me think about how many other people were roaming the halls and exploring other offices.



**Ned Darling, Supv. Maint.
Mechanic
Campbell Tract Facility**

The security of personnel and government buildings are of the highest importance to me. The Campbell Tract Facility is a wonderful place to work, but by the nature of its location, it is vulnerable to break-ins. Area growth has significantly increased the number of recreational users passing through the BLM operations areas. It has been suggested that we put a strong, high fence around this entire compound, but I don't feel that is an option right now.



**Tonyua Abram, secretary
for State Director/ASD
Alaska State Office**

Our building security is good. Based on what happened in Oklahoma City, security awareness has been heightened. I've worked in the federal building since January and I feel secure.

Can you name
all of BLM
Alaska's
offices?



- 1. Alaska State Office
- 2. Anchorage Field Office/
- Campbell Tract Facility
- 3. Joint Pipeline Office
- Fairbanks
- 4. Northern Field Office
- 5. Alaska Fire Service
- 6. Chicken Field Station*
- 7. Goldfoot Contact Station*
- 8. Glennallen Field Office
- 9. Juneau Field Office
- 10. Kotzebue Field Station
- 11. Nome Field Station
- 12. Tok Field Office
- * open seasonally

Alaska People

Bureau of Land Management
222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599
tele. 907.271.3335

Return if not delivered in 10 days.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS/Penalty for Private Use \$300

Danielle Allen
Dwayne Richardson,
Kim Mincer,
Charles Luddington
Carol Belenski

Editor/Writer/Design/Layout

Photo Manipulation
Map, pg. 2

**BLM Library
Denver Federal Center
Bldg. 50, OC-521
P.O. Box 25047
Denver, CO 80225**